COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Defense Proposes Research Continue on ABM Systems

Defense Secretary McNamara has said DOD proposes to continue anti-ballistic missile (ABM) research and development at a $500 million annual rate regardless of any decision relating to production or deployment.

Noting $377 million earmarked in the FY68 budget for possible ABM deployment, the Secretary reiterated that DOD does not now plan to produce or deploy such a system.

McNamara said: "We are hoping to engage in discussions with the Soviet Union to limit the deployment of such systems. If such discussions prove unsuccessful, we will wish to reconsider our present decision not to deploy and at that time we might wish to undertake a limited deployment, for example for protection of our offensive weapons systems, for possible protection of the Minutemen silos; whether or not the discussions with the Soviets will be successful in limiting their action and ours, I can't say."

Too Early to Predict Talks

As for ABM talks with the Soviets, Mr. McNamara did say it is still much too early to predict exactly how the talks will proceed, on what schedule, in what form or in what format.

The Defense Secretary said he has presented Congress with two alternative ballistic missile defense systems.

- A so-called "Posture A" system, a light area defense costing an estimated $12 billion, would cover 25 cities such as New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Philadelphia.
- A so-called "Posture B" system, a point defense of the 25 plus another 25 cities; additional coverage to include such cities as San Antonio, San Diego, San Bernardino and Tacoma and would cost $22 billion to install.

However, Mr. McNamara underscored these were only cost estimates and DOD's experience with complicated weapon systems is to add on 50 percent to both estimates.

He pointed out so many cities would be left uncovered in either posture that the public's demand for equal protection would make it unlikely that the U.S. could limit ABM defense to these postures.

CHANGE OF COMMAND—RAdm. Thomas R. Weschler (left) and RAdm. Paul L. Lacy Jr., salute the colors during change of command ceremonies at the U.S. Naval Support Activity, Da Nang, RVN. Adm. Lacy took command of NAVSUPPACT from Adm. Weschler who has been reassigned to duty in the United States.

North Vietnamese Resupply Efforts Show Bombing Effects

North Vietnamese resupply efforts during the recent Lunar New Year's truce have demonstrated the effectiveness of the United States' air war, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Installations and Logistics) Robert H. Charles said.

Charles pointed out that during the brief truce, North Vietnamese supply efforts were about five times greater than when U.S. air and naval operations were underway.

"While air interdiction cannot prevent the infiltration of small groups of men—one to five at a time—along jungle trails," Secretary Charles said, "it can and does reduce the supplies required by these troops."

"Why would the enemy be trying so hard to get us to stop the bombing if it were not hurting him," Mr. Charles asked.

In a speech before the American Ordnance Association, he pointed out that the number of battalion-size attacks by the enemy declined from an average of seven per month in 1965 to 1.7 monthly from July through November 1966.

He explained that "the Communists in 1966 lost their initiative. They have now been forced to concern themselves more with their own defense and survival."

Washington Memos

NORTH-SOUTH INFILTRATION rate in Vietnam is now more difficult to predict because individuals rather than units are doing the infiltrating, DOD reports. In the first half of 1966, when units were coming over, the reporting lag was on the order of 90 days. In the second half, while fillers came over, the reporting lag was about five to six months.

COAST GUARD ICE-BREAKER Eastwind has been cited for helping to rescue two Danish ships from heavy ice floes off the coast of Antarctica. One of the Danish ships had been stuck for a month, the other for two weeks. Rescue was made despite communications blackout caused by intense magnetic storm in area.

A $2.5 MILLION contract is being issued for Shrike Missiles. Sperry Rand Corporation, Bristol, Tenn., is receiving the firm, fixed-price contract from Naval Air Systems Command.

DOD STATISTICS SHOW that 7,333 U.S. personnel in Vietnam lost their lives from hostile forces actions during Jan. 1, 1961 through Feb. 11, 1967. Additionally, 1,663 lost their lives from non-hostile actions.

FOUR WEEK PERSONNEL Staff Officer Course (OAR 7311) is scheduled to begin in September at Amarillo AFB, Tex. Course is for captains through lieutenant colonels who possess AFSCs 7324, 7311 and 7316.

MORE THIRD COUNTRY forces are serving today in Vietnam than during the Korean Conflict more than a decade ago. These include some 46,000 South Koreans, 4,500 Australians, 2,000 Filipinos, 200 Thais and 150 New Zealanders.

U.S. NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHIC Office is conducting an airborne geomagnetic survey of all accessible ocean areas of the world. This program, known as Project Magnet, will provide material for preparation of navigational and world isomagnetic charts which provide more reliable navigational data for ships and aircraft.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON has appointed Maj. Gen. Jess Larson, USAF-ret., to the Board of Visitors of the Air Force Academy. Gen. Larson is an attorney and president of the Air Force Association. The President also reappointed Houston Harte, president, Express Publishing Co. Both will serve three-year terms.

PRODUCTION OF $8.6 million worth of aircraft engine components by Avco Lycoming Division, Avco Corp., Stratford, Conn., has been authorized by Army's Aviation Materiel Command. Major items include gear shaft assemblies, ring spacers, mounting pad locks, power turbine cylinders, housing assemblies, compressor rotary blades, turbine disks, locked compressor rings, hollow pins, third turbine cylinders, impeller assemblies, sleeve bushings and torquemeter sleeves.

U.S.S. RANGER RECEIVED "Ship of the Year" award from "Our Navy" magazine. Presentation was made by RAdm. W. E. Ferrall, 13th Naval District Commandant, to the aircraft carrier's commanding officer, Capt. W. E. Donnelly Jr., at the Navy Shipyard, Bremerton, Wash. The Forrestal class carrier was nominated for award by VAdm. John J. Hyland, Seventh Fleet Commander, while deployed for her second tour of combat operations off Vietnam coast.

FIRST CLASS OF about 225 Air Force civil engineering personnel, scheduled for assignment to Southeast Asia, will begin special training at Eglin AFB, Fla., March 20. An estimated 2,400 civil engineering students are expected to receive the training annually. Eight-week course is conducted by the 560th Civil Engineering Sq (Heavy Repair).

AVIATION MATERIEL COMMAND Commander Brig. Gen. Howard F. Schiltz will be assigned to Headquarters, U.S. Navy Material Command in Washington, D.C., May 1. Gen. Schiltz will be replaced at his St. Louis command by Maj. Gen. John Norton, commander, First Cavlary Division.

MAJOR GENERAL LOWELL E. English assumed command of Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif., Feb. 14, relieving Maj. Gen. Bruno A. Hochmuth. Gen. English reported to MCRD San Diego from 3rd Marine Division in Vietnam, which will be Gen. Hochmuth's next command.

NAVAL DENTAL Research Institute has been established at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill. Institute's mission will be confined to research, test, evaluation and development in dental and the allied sciences. First officer-in-charge of the Institute is Capt. Gordon H. Rovelstad, DC, USN.

SENATOR JOHN C. STENNIS (D-Miss), chairman of Military Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee, will speak Feb. 27 at special ceremonies in Washington, D.C., honoring Air National Guard squadrons who took part in airlift operations to Vietnam.

FAVORITE TOURIST spot in Ohio is the Air Force Museum, as indicated by the more than half-million visitors last year. Museum is located two blocks from Ohio route 444, about 11 miles east of Dayton.

BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM R. Kraft Jr., has been designated Director, Western Hemisphere Region, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs. The appointment was effective Feb. 10.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Background for Commanders

U.S. SEEKS RECIPROCITY IN VIETNAM*

There has been a good deal of discussion in recent days about the prospects for peace in Vietnam.

We have emphasized that we would be prepared to discuss steps of mutual de-escalation or would indeed take note of any de-escalation on the ground and would respond accordingly.

But for some time now there has been evident a systematic campaign by the Communist side to bring about an unconditional and permanent cessation of the bombing of North Vietnam without any corresponding military action on their side in exchange for the possibility of talks—talks which are thus far formless and without content. We cannot accept a situation in which men and arms move, without interruption by us, to cross the 17th Parallel and attack allied armed forces and Vietnamese civilians in the South. We must know the military consequences of such a military action on our part. They must not expect us to stop our military action by bombing while they continue their military action by invasion. No one has been able or willing to give us any information on this subject.

(Following his prepared statement, the Secretary answered reporters' questions. Below are excerpts from his replies.)

Reciprocity

I have pointed out in my statement that we cannot stop our military actions involving the bombing while they [North Vietnamese] continue their military actions of invasion.

Now, let me illustrate the question of reciprocity just for a moment, because that element has dropped out of a good deal of public discussion of this subject.

If we were to say that we would not talk unless all violence stops in the south while our bombing continues in the north, everyone would say, "Well, that is absurd." Now, why is it absurd for us and reasonable for the other side?

We have had no indication that they will adopt corresponding or reciprocal military moves if we stop the bombing of North Vietnam.

We have some operational questions. Those trucks just north of the 17th Parallel headed south with men and arms—are we to say that they are free to come to the gates with impunity, safety, and then suddenly unload themselves and have those men attack our Marines just across the 17th parallel while we pick this ammunition out of our men, instead of dealing with those trucks as a part of the battle where we find them?

I think some elementary reciprocity is required and common fairness would require, if there is an interest towards peace, that both sides help move toward it, because you cannot stop this war simply by stopping a half of it.

What has not been said is what the military consequences would be if we stopped the bombing—what would the other side do. This is a point which has been ignored. And we need some response on that.

Let me make it clear. We do not consider that any action in the military field need be a pre-condition for discussions. We are prepared today to have talks with those on the other side, to talk about either the prospects for peace or to talk about the mutual steps which the two sides can take to reduce the violence and move this closer toward peace.

Will Discuss Any Point

We are prepared to talk about any point, any handle which can be grasped, which might make a difference in this situation.

For example, the demilitarization of the demilitarized zone along the 17th Parallel; assistance to Prince Sihanouk of Cambodia, in assuring the neutrality and the territorial integrity of his country; the exchange of prisoners—we are prepared to talk about any point which could indicate some constructive step forward.

Now, if we are faced with a major condition on the military side as a pre-condition for discussion, then we are prepared to enter into preliminary discussions with the other side about what action can and should be taken by the two sides in the military field. But there needs to be some reciprocity in these matters.

The other side is demanding an unconditional and permanent cessation of the bombing. That is a very significant military step for us to take. Unless it is accompanied by military action on their part, it would create a situation in which they would be safe and secure, while sending their men and arms down to attack South Vietnam.

As you recall, during the pause in the bombing [in early 1966], on the 34th day instead of coming back with counter proposals, they simply publicly required that we accept the notion that the Liberation Front should be the sole spokesman for the South Vietnamese people, that we accept their four points and get out of South Vietnam. That was obviously impossible.

[Today] there is no shift in our position in the sense that we are prepared to take up political questions through political channels. We are prepared to deal with military matters as military matters, and we are prepared to discuss with the other side what actions each side might take of a military character that would move this matter toward peace.

** Excerpts from remarks made by Secretary of State Dean Rusk at a news conference held on 9 February 1967.*

Social Security Numbers To Replace Service Digits In Computerized Systems

The familiar Armed Forces serial numbers which go back to the days of World War I will be replaced in all computerized data systems by the Social Security Account Number.

DOD, in making this announcement, said Social Security Account Numbers (SSAN) "are to be included whenever the automated military personnel master records, interfacing data systems, computer programs, or procedures necessary to process such records are to be converted or revised."

Armed Forces Examining and Entrance Stations have been given a July 1 target date to assure that each individual entering any service be given a Social Security number. The Services have a July 1, 1969 date to change all automated date records.

Officials said Serial Numbers do not make good computer language because of the wide service-to-service difference in numbering and letter prefixes and suffixes.

They stressed, however, that using SSAN's for computerized identification does not preclude Service use of Serial Numbers for other purposes. As a matter of fact, Serial Numbers will not disappear July 1. Pentagon officials say they will eventually be phased out but stress no one can predict just when.

Army Vietnam Volunteers Reach Estimated 66,700 Since July 1964

An estimated 66,700 Army personnel have volunteered for Vietnam duty since the volunteer program was first announced on July 1, 1964, and more than 60,000 of these have been accepted.

The Army has assigned 41,595 officers and enlisted volunteers during the past year. This is more than double the number assigned during the previous 18 months.

Total volunteers since the program's beginning are 6,797 officers and 59,834 enlisted men.

STRIKE COMMANDER — Cdr. Billy Phillips, commanding officer of Naval Air Wing 19, checks his aircraft after acting as strike commander in the second coordinated flight of U.S.S. Ticonderoga aircraft against the Thanh Hoa railroad complex in North Vietnam.

Command Reassignments Are Set by Marine Corps

Reassignment of two general officers and two brigadier general selectees has been announced by Headquarters Marine Corps.

Maj. Gen. Robert E. Cushman Jr., currently serving as commanding general of Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Calif., will join the III Marine Amphibious Force as Deputy Commander about April 1. He will be replaced at Camp Pendleton by Maj. Gen. Lewis J. Fields, commanding general 5th Marine Division.

Brig. Gen. selectee Jacob E. Glick will be transferred from Atlantic Command to Headquarters Marine Corps on May 1, while Brig. Gen. selectee Robert R. Fairburn, currently serving with the First Marine Aircraft Wing, will replace Brig. Gen. Alvin S. Sanders as commanding general of Marine Corps Supply Center, Albany, Ga., upon Gen. Sanders' retirement on May 1.

DOD to Recall Personnel Who Failed to Complete Military Reserve Obligation

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara has announced plans to recall to active duty individual reservists who are not satisfactorily fulfilling their obligation.

Secretary McNamara took the action following signing of an Executive Order implementing congressional authority contained in the DOD Appropriation Act of 1967.

Individuals affected by the new plan would be eligible for up to 24 months active duty service.

The number of personnel subject to active duty orders under the new rules are: 15,000-25,000 Army; 3,500-4,000 Air Force; 2,000 Marine Corps and 100 Navy Reserves.

The executive order delegates to the Secretary of Defense or, if designated by him, the Secretaries of the Military Departments, the authority to order to active duty any member of the Ready Reserve who:

- Is not assigned to, or participating satisfactorily in, a unit in the Ready Reserve;
- Has not fulfilled his statutory reserve obligations;
- Has not served on active duty or active duty for training for a total of 24 months.

Air Force Personnel Teach English to Vietnamese

Fourteen Air Force personnel at Bien Hoa air base are sacrificing off-duty time six nights a week to teach English to Ngo Quyen high school students in the city of Bien Hoa, South Vietnam.

Organized by 1st Lt. Richard S. Blair, civic action officer for the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing, the program has met with enthusiastic response from students and Vietnamese high school officials.

More than 150 students are divided into eight classes with two instructors per class.

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